

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 327

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly
at the death of former Deputy Attorney General
and State Senator Thomas E. Fox.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members
of this General Assembly learned of the death of Thomas E. Fox, who served the people of
Tennessee in various public capacities for over twenty exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, we remember Mr. Fox as an attorney of considerable talent, and fondly
recall his commitment and honor in public service and his bountiful life of purpose; and

WHEREAS, a fine gentleman and outstanding public servant, Mr. Fox distinguished
himself as a gifted professional during his estimable term of service with the State Attorney
General's office; and

WHEREAS, renowned among his peers and colleagues as a meticulous researcher
who was always thoroughly prepared in court, he represented the State of Tennessee with great
acumen when he eloquently and cogently argued several cases involving freedom of speech
and civil rights before the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his great facility as an attorney, Mr. Fox was also an adept
legal scholar who authored four case notes in the *Tennessee Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Fox served adroitly with the State Attorney General's office for
sixteen remarkable years, beginning his superlative tenure in 1956 as Assistant Attorney
General and retiring in 1972 as Deputy Attorney General; and

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WHEREAS, indeed, he served with diligence and dedication throughout his laudable career with state government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox served the good people of Maury, Lewis and Perry counties as their State Senator during the 77th and 78th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his august tenure in the General Assembly, Senator Fox evidenced the highest precepts of effective public service by closely examining both sides of any given issue, carefully considering the merits and disadvantages thereof, and then decisively voting his conscience; and

WHEREAS, while in the Senate, Tom Fox skillfully guided to passage innovative legislation that required the permanent registration of voters throughout the state, thus ushering in a new era in election reform; and

WHEREAS, he also proved himself to be a tireless advocate for fairness and equity throughout his meritorious service in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, a very personable and polite gentleman who fully committed himself to the many leadership positions he held during his lifetime, Tom Fox's integrity was impeccable, and his character was greatly admired and respected by his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox had practiced law during his term of service in the General Assembly, and after his retirement from the Attorney General's office, he moved to Franklin and returned to private legal practice; and

WHEREAS, during this time, he served ably as County Attorney for Williamson County; he retired from his law practice in 1986 and devoted more time to his farm; and

WHEREAS, a native of Williamson County, Tom Fox taught school at intervals during 1931-40 before receiving his bachelor of science degree from Middle Tennessee State College in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox courageously and proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, being commissioned as a second lieutenant in September 1942; and

WHEREAS, he served bravely overseas in the South Pacific Theater from January 1943 to August 1945 and was awarded the Bronze Star; he was released to service in the Marine Reserve Forces in December 1945; and

WHEREAS, determined to further his education, Mr. Fox then returned to school and received his law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1948; and

WHEREAS, during the Korean War, Mr. Fox served with the rank of Major in the U.S. Marine Corps as a law officer at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he had attained the rank of lieutenant colonel at the time of his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant man dedicated to public service, Thomas E. Fox was a valuable member of the Williamson County and Brentwood Chambers of Commerce, the Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee, McKendree United Methodist Church, Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 and the Franklin Order of Eastern Star No. 449; and

WHEREAS, he had also rendered estimable service to his respective alma maters as President of the University of Tennessee Law Alumni and board member of the University of Tennessee College of Law, and as President and Board member of the Middle Tennessee State University National Alumni Association and MTSU Foundation Trustee; and

WHEREAS, he was deservedly honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by MTSU in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his widow, Elizabeth A. Fox, a sister, Ethel Fox Thompson, and several admiring nieces and nephews, including Judy Fox Jackson, Bettye Sue Fox Ebner, Alice Fox Dodson, Alma Jean Fox Johnson, Adrian Fox, Gail Fox Adkins, Gay Fox Bobo, Jean Fox Cathey and George R. Fox; and

WHEREAS, friends and family have variously described Tom Fox as a “caring husband,” “loyal friend,” “proud Marine,” and “accomplished attorney,” among many other accolades, but most of all, he was the consummate gentleman who always treated his fellow human beings with the utmost respect and courtesy; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Thomas E. Fox astutely served his fellow Tennesseans in the highest offices of state government; men of his stature do not often walk among us, and his life of purpose and achievement should be appropriately commemorated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of former State Senator and Deputy Attorney General Thomas E. Fox, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy of estimable public service and his tireless commitment to perpetuating the public good.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences and sympathy to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the above-mentioned surviving relatives, with this final clause omitted from such copies.